

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

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**ITEM**

**18**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC**

**Final Rule--Chapter 108, Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons**

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The Commission is requested to adopt a final rule to amend Chapter 571 – 108 “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons.” Chapter 571 – 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers.

The amendments add Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties to the counties open for taking bobcat. The amendments also increase the quota from 400 to 500 for river otters and from 150 to 200 for bobcats. The amendments eliminate the restrictions on beaver trapping in Linn County. The amendments clarify that all furbearers must be immediately dispatched or released back into the wild and that wild furbearers may not lawfully be kept in pens or enclosures.

Ken Herring, Administrator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
June 12, 2008

Attachment: Chapter 108, Furbearer Seasons Final

## NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 108 “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This Chapter sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting and trapping furbearers.

These amendments add Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury Counties to the area open for taking bobcat. The amendments also increase the quota from 400 to 500 for river otters and from 150 to 200 for bobcats. The amendments eliminate the restrictions on beaver trapping in Linn County.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on April 9, 2008, as ARC 6703B. A public hearing was held on April 29, 2008, and 15 comments were received. An additional 9 written comments were received. The comments included requests to open bobcat season statewide and increase limits while other comments requested that the DNR not allow hunting or trapping of bobcats and river otters. There was a request for further discussion about the amendment that clarifies that live animals are not to be held in captivity. Coon hunters and trappers are concerned that they will no longer be able to keep fox and coyote for the collection of urine or to be used to train dogs. They are also concerned that they will no longer be able to legally capture and transfer live raccoon from farmsteads to be released in wildlife areas. A meeting was held on May 5, 2008, with representatives from the Iowa Trappers and Coon Hunters Association. It was clear at that meeting that everyone was not comfortable with the language used in the amendment. Further discussions will be held to develop language for next year that makes it clear that an animal that is legally trapped either during the trapping season or for nuisance animal control must be dispatched or released and that trapping is not to be used as a way to convert wild animals into captivity.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87 and 481A.90.

These amendments shall become effective August 20, 2008.

The following amendments are adopted.

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**ITEM 1.** Amend subrule 108.7(2) as follows:

108.7(2) Open area. River otters may be taken statewide. Bobcats may be taken in the following counties: Adams, Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Fremont, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Lucas, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, ~~and~~ Wayne, and Woodbury.

**ITEM 2.** Amend subrule 108.7(3), paragraph “b,” as follows:

b. Quotas. The quota for the number of river otters that may be taken is ~~400~~ 500 statewide. The quota for the number of bobcats that may be taken is ~~150~~ 200 in the open area. The season shall end for river otters when the number of river otters trapped, as determined by

the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~400~~ 500. The season shall end for bobcats when the number of bobcats taken, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~150~~ 200. Trappers shall be allowed a 48-hour grace period after the quota is reached to clear their traps of river otters or bobcats. River otters or bobcats found in traps during the grace period may be kept even though the quota is exceeded provided that the trapper has not reached the trapper's personal bag limit. River otters or bobcats trapped after the grace period or in excess of the seasonal bag limit must be turned over to the department; the trapper shall not be penalized.

**ITEM 3.** Rescind subrule 108.9(2).

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Date

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Richard A. Leopold, Director

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